

Heritage Statement

This Heritage Statement has been updated by the new manager of Waddow Hall, Luke Gaskill with supporting information provided by a heritage statement issued by Sunderland Peacock Architects on behalf of the Waddow Heritage committee about planning for restoration works to the stone doorway. Advice has also been sought from the Waddow Heritage group and from Jenny Mitcalf (MPhil in Public Heritage & Cultural History).

Waddow Hall is a grade II listed building that sits on a 178-acre site, and was designated as such in 1954, predating the current planning act 1990 - list entry 1318094 and the list description for Waddow Hall is as follows:

"Large house, late C18th with early C17th remains. Pebbledashed rubble with slate roof. 2 storeys with attics, the south facade having a continuous dormer added after the house was acquired by the Girl Guide Association in 1927. Main block of 5 bays with projecting quoins, moulded cornice, and parapet. The windows have architraves and are sashed, the lower panes having no glazing bars. The doorway, reached by 4 steps, has a semi-circular head having a fanlight with radiating glazing bars, and is flanked by Tuscan pilasters with broken fluted entablature and open pediment with mutules. The attic storey is of 5 bays having similar windows, but with plain stone surrounds. Set back slightly to the left are a further 4 bays, with projecting quoins, sill bands, and a string course. The windows are similar to those of the rest of the facade, but have plain stone surrounds. The attic storey is of 5 bays; 4 axial chimney caps are set back from the ridge, with a 5th chimney on the left-hand gable. Towards the rear both gables- have copings of C17th type. At the rear of the main house a section of continuous drip course remains, truncated by a tall stair window with plain stone surround and semi-circular head. To its right is a 4-light mullioned window with outer chamfer and inner hollow chamfer, partly reconstructed. Interior. The left-hand front room of the main block has a plaster cornice, fluted frieze and band of festoons. The doors of the 2 front rooms are of early-to-mid C19th type, having flat panels with raised mouldings forming a border. The rear hall contains a flying stair with stick balusters and swept handrail. 2 moulded main joists are exposed, possibly C17th. A C17th decorated lintel, having a central device of a head flanked by wings, is re-used over a fireplace. On the flat floor of the western part of the house are hardwood main ceiling joists, not chamfered and only of moderate scantling. These are also said to be part of an earlier house. A painting of 1690 hanging in the house shows a building with early C17th details, and proportions similar to those of the present house."

The Hall was purchased by the Guide Association and the deeds were handed over in October 1928. It was acquired as a training centre for adult leaders and was managed by the Guider in Charge and a committee. During the Second World War, the Hall was used as a children's isolation hospital and the land opposite the hall was used as a training ground by the armed forces.

Following the end of the war, the hall was reopened as a training centre and many alterations and improvements have been made to the hall, including additional training rooms and a new kitchen and dining room. Ensuite facilities have also been added to the bedrooms.

The Guide Association remain the custodians today and the site is used as an activity and training centre, providing a range of accommodation options and outdoor adventure activities for school groups and girl guides, as well as events, family receptions, corporate functions and meals for the public.

Changes in the demands of modern girls and young people means that Waddow Hall is now more frequently used as a site for events of various scale and the business now supports 6 large-scale girl-only and community events a year with a further 30-40 small-scale events and wedding receptions. The site has approximately 25000 visitors per annum with 35% of these visitors attending events that the proposed marquee would support.

The area of land designated for this structure has always been designated as an area for recreation and was indeed a tennis court when the site was previously a family home. Since the occupation of the Guide Association, the land has remained recreational and used for supporting activities such as fencing and teambuilding. The lie and levels of the surrounding land allows the proposed temporary structure to be disguised in part from an area of trees. No historic fabric will be affected by siting of the temporary structure being provided. The business continues to receive increased enquiries for larger events and the current facilities available are not suitable. A marquee has been provided on this site periodically over the past years, specifically over the past four years when providing more and more opportunity for educational tourism and improved social mobility within young people.

There are few other sites locally able to provide such a venue and business and opportunities lost, including the secondary spend that tourists to our venue provide to the local town. The 12m x 15m structure has provided a flexible venue for many types of events for the last 3 years. It is a structure that can be dismantled annually for 1-3 months in a year for cleaning and maintenance if the need arises. It has supported the viability of the site by improving facilities on offer with all the related benefits and has allowed us to grow our community engagement, membership events and schools education business. Specific measures have been taken to reduce noise and light pollution and disruption has been minimised. The facility will not impact on landscape quality and is concealed by natural screening, if further planting is deemed necessary then we will put a plan in place to improve the site.